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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (A/49/854 and A/49/868)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the measures taken by the Advisory Committee in respect of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) were set out in the annex to its report (A/49/868). With regard to the estimates for the period from 16 December 1994 to 30 June 1996, the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 13 of its report, recommended appropriation and assessment of $3,251,200 gross to meet the costs of the Mission from 16 December 1994 to 26 April 1995, and, with regard to the period from 27 April 1995 to 30 June 1996, appropriation of $10,044,200 gross, subject to the extension of the mandate of UNMOT by the Security Council, and assessment, at the rate of $717,400 gross per month. That procedure would be in line with the new budget cycles established by the General Assembly in resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994.

2. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNMOT (A/49/854), said that the mandate of the Mission was to assist the Joint Commission to monitor the implementation of the agreement of 17 September 1994 and to investigate reports of cease-fire violations and to report on them to the United Nations and to the Joint Commission. The Mission of Observers had been mandated for six months initially, subject to the proviso that the mandate would continue if the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council that the parties had agreed to extend the agreement of 17 September 1994 and that they remained committed to an effective cease-fire. Since then, the Secretary-General had submitted two reports to the Security Council, which had endorsed his recommendations and extended the mandate of the Mission until 6 March 1995 and, subsequently, until 26 April 1995.

3. When the Secretary-General had submitted his report, on the understanding that the mandate would be extended and that expenditure would be maintained at the same level, budgets for the Mission had been submitted covering the period from its establishment on 16 December 1994 to 30 June 1995 and the 12-month period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996. To date, the operation had been financed under unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure in accordance with the authority conferred on the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly should establish a special account for UNMOT; that the amount of $4,339,700 gross should be appropriated and assessed for UNMOT for the period from 16 December 1994 to 30 June 1995; and, with regard to the period after 30 June 1995, that provision should be made for commitment authorization at a monthly rate of $752,800 gross and for the assessment of such amounts, should the Security Council decide to renew the mandate of UNMOT beyond that date (A/49/854, para. 36). Since the submission of that report, the Security Council had extended the mandate of UNMOT until 26 April 1995. He took note of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the amount of $3,251,200 gross should be appropriated and assessed to meet the costs of the Mission during its current mandate, and that, should the

Security Council renew the mandate thereafter, an amount of approximately $1 million should be appropriated per month.

4. With respect to the financial situation of the Mission, no decision had been taken to date regarding appropriation, so that the account was short of funds. As for voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established in response to a request by the Security Council, one Member State had to date made a contribution of $54,000 and other Member States had indicated that it was their intention to make a contribution.

AGENDA ITEM 121: FINANCING AND LIQUIDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/49/714 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and A/49/867)

5. Mr. BOIN (France) raised a procedural question with regard to consideration of agenda item 121 concerning the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). He hoped that consideration of the agenda item would be deferred until after the report on the comprehensive evaluation of UNTAC had been published, together with the relevant comments, observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to defer consideration of the agenda item.

7. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Revised estimates for conference services at Vienna

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.39

8. Mr. BARIMANI (Vice-Chairman of the Committee), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Revised estimates for conference services at Vienna", said that the draft resolution referred to General Assembly resolutions 44/201 A of 21 December 1989, and 48/218 C and 48/222 A of 23 December 1993, by which the General Assembly had endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that a unified conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre would represent the ideal solution from the standpoint of cost-efficiency. Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the estimated net savings resulting from the proposed facility for the budgets of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) taken together, and of the estimated net additional costs of $324,000 resulting from the proposed facility for the United Nations budget for the biennium 1994-1995; it would concur with the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee; it would request the Secretary-General to proceed to establish the unified conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre under the management of the United Nations on the basis of the elements and criteria set out in paragraph 4; and it would also request the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to implement cost-effective technological innovations for the aforementioned facility and to continue to examine the feasibility of contracting out elements of conference services at Headquarters

and all duty stations with a view to achieving further cost-efficiency in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. He proposed that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

9. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.39 was adopted.

10. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), referring to paragraph 4 (b) of the draft resolution, whereby the unified conference-servicing facility would be established under budget sections 25E and 25I, within existing resources, taking into account increased income in respect of reimbursements from UNIDO for services provided by the United Nations, said that the existing resources for the biennium 1994-1995 under budget section 25E (Conference services, Vienna) amounted to $34.7 million, while those under budget section 25I (United Nations Office at Vienna), amounted to zero.

11. It was his understanding that, under that arrangement, the Secretary-General would be able to enter into additional commitments for the establishment of the unified conference-servicing facility at Vienna, provided that those commitments did not exceed the expected increased income in respect of reimbursements from UNIDO for such services, without which it could not function. The additional expenditures and net income would be set out in the second programme budget performance report for the biennium 1994-1995.

12. With regard to the request that the Secretary-General should review staff requirements on the basis of the most updated actual workload statistics (para. 4 (d)) and examine the feasibility of achieving further cost-efficiency in the programme budget, he said that everything possible was being done to ensure that the results of those reviews would be incorporated in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.